

ORIGINAL

██████████ Statement of 17 Aug 2006. The Statement below is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection:

I went on the ice for ice liberty, some time between 1530 and Chow. I went over to check out the divers. I was on the ice for more than an hour or 45 mins. I saw BM2 Duque, Ms. Hill, Ms. ██████████ all suited up to dive. BM2 Duque was about 15 feet from the edge of the ice where they went in. Ms. Hill and Ms. ██████████ were on the edge of the ice. Mr. ██████████ was helping BM2 Duque put on his gloves. I went over to help put on BM2 Duque's gloves with Mr. ██████████. He was having trouble fitting the gloves, so I helped him take off his pack, and he went up the brow and then came back with another pair of black gloves. I helped put his inner and outer gloves on with Mr. ██████████. Then he made his way to the edge. At the edge I helped Ms. Hill put on her hood and mask. At first her mask was on the outside of her hood. So I helped her take off her mask and hood. Then she held her mask to her face and then I helped tightened her straps and placed her hood over her head and made sure there was no skin showing. I saw DC3 to my left helping Ms. ██████████ put on her mask to. I saw BM2 to my right with Mr. ██████████. I hooked the D-ring to Ms. Hill's right side. I tugged on it to make sure it was secure. I backed up and saw that Mr. ██████████ was behind Ms. ██████████, DC3 ██████████ was behind Ms. Hill, and Mr. ██████████ was behind BM2 ██████████. All three went into the water about the same time. I can't remember what order. They went in and were floating in the water for maybe five minutes. Ms. ██████████ came out, and Mr. ██████████ and I helped her get out. Ms. ██████████ looked like she was cold and she said her neck seal had leaked, so she got out of her pack and said she was going to get a new suit on the Healy. Then Ms. Hill and BM2 Duque came out shortly after. Ms. Hill was asking for more weight. I went and grabbed the red net bag and put it behind her. She said she wanted an eight. I wasn't sure if she meant eight pounds or the number on the bags. I helped BM2 Duque out of the water to help him get his right glove off, because he was complaining that his right hand was really cold. So I asked ██████████ the scientist to come over to warm his hands, but she said something like that her hands were not warm enough to warm his hands. So Chief ██████████ came over to warm BM2 Duque's hands under his arm pit. Then I took off my gloves because they were wet from helping them out of the water. Once I dried my hands off, I put his hands under my armpit and then I helped rub his hands to keep them warm, then I checked his inner glove to see if it was wet. It didn't feel wet, so I helped put it back on and his outer glove on. BM2 Duque wanted more weights, something like a ten, which were put into the back of his pack. They were at the edge of the ice and ready to go in, with Mr. ██████████ behind BM2 Duque and DC3 ██████████ behind Ms. Hill. I helped get them in the water, while DC3 ██████████ tended Ms. Hill, and Mr. ██████████ tended BM2 Duque. I got Ms. Hill's Camera from DC3 ██████████ and I took pictures of them in the water floating. Ms. Hill was facing BM2 Duque, then she gave him a signal of two fingers, then they both went under the water and then I put the camera in my pocket. I saw that DC3 ██████████ spool of line that was behind him was rolling around the ice. So I took it and held it so that it could feed out properly. I put the spool down. Mr. ██████████ and DC3 ██████████ stopped feeding the line out. I went over to the edge of the ice. I could not see Ms. Hill and BM2 Duque anymore. I grabbed Ms. Hill's line at one point to give it two tugs to get a response. At one time I got one tug on Ms. Hill's line. I looked back and saw that there was not much line left on the black spool. There was twenty to thirty

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feet of line left on the black spool. I put my gloves back on and took over the line from Mr. [REDACTED] who was having trouble holding the line. At that time we were pulling them back up. I was told by Ms. [REDACTED] to give them four tugs and to pull them back up slowly. When I gave four tugs on the line that was tending BM2 Duque, I didn't feel any tugs back. There was a short time, about five seconds, when we were pulling BM2 Duque's line and it had slacked like we lost tension. Then there was tension again. My hands were getting cold and I knew that I was close to not being able to pull on the line to BM2 Duque anymore. So I yelled to the crowd that was about thirty or fifty feet to the right of me, "Hey we need help on these lines." My hands were so cold and I saw that there were several people on each line, so I stopped pulling and went in between both tending lines looking into the water. When I was at the ice edge, I looked down and could not see either one of them. I could see the line tending straight down. As the line was coming up I saw that the lines were crossed, like an X. Then the lines were not crossed anymore. Then I started to see Ms. Hill come up on my left. Then BM2 Duque was coming up below her on my right, maybe ten or twenty feet. I yelled out to the ship and said, "Get some blankets down here now!" Then I started to see Ms. Hill getting closer and I yelled out that she was "ten feet", but someone else said "she's deeper than that." She surfaced with her head out of the water and then I helped pull her out. BM2 surfaced and I went to help him out of the water. I disconnected one of his clips and took off his pack and dragged it out of the way. I turned around and Mr. [REDACTED] and ET2 [REDACTED] were performing CPR on Ms. Hill while her pack was still on. I helped get her pack off and dragged it out of the way. I saw Mr. [REDACTED] looking at Ms. [REDACTED]'s pack that was beside the ones I just got off them. He read the wrong gauge, so I pointed out to him that it was the wrong one. He looked at the gauge of the packs I pointed out and he said it was "Maxed out." I saw that they were getting BM2 Duque into the stretcher/stokes litter, so I went to help them pull it to the brow and carry him up the brow. After I helped get him off the brow and on to the 01-Deck, we were going into the port entrance of the house from the fo'c'sle. When we got to the ladder entrance, we were having trouble fitting the stokes litter into the vestibule. So we redirected aft and back out the aft entrance and up the ladder and into the 02-Deck port aft house entrance and into sick bay. After that I hurried down to make sure they didn't take Ms. Hill the same original way we went and got them to proceed aft on the weather deck up the same ladder we went. I then helped pull her up the ladder and was relieved by others to take her into sick bay. I went to the hangar to help get the compression chamber, I saw that there were only a few pieces left and I grabbed it taking it to sick bay. FS2 [REDACTED] instructed other personnel and I to stay out of sick bay. I was starting to feel cold, because my clothes were wet and I had no gloves on. I went to my room to change.

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